Amendment 16
Giorgos Georgiou
on behalf of The Left Group

Report
Véronique Trillet-Lenoir
Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer
(2020/2267(INI))

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 37 a (new)

Amendment

37a. Highlights the importance of allocating appropriate funding to science and social humanities research in order to evaluate inequalities in access to standards of care and innovation in childhood cancer across Europe, which account for differences in survival rates of paediatric cancer patients of up to 20% among Member States, and of formulating mitigating measures in order to guarantee equal rights and access to treatment for all children and young people with cancer in Europe; regrets, in this regard, the disparities in terms of access to high-quality healthcare services among Member States, and also among different regions within Member States, and asks the Commission to address those disparities through the appropriate legislative measures in order to ensure equal rights in the EU;
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 61

61. Deplores the fact that EU patients still face challenges in accessing healthcare services and participating in clinical trials in other Member States and that only a minority of patients, and not all healthcare professionals, are aware of the right of patients to seek cross-border healthcare under the two existing frameworks: the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive and the Social Security Regulation; calls for a reform of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive, notably to allow for mobility and access to highly specialised equipment and care through the reinforcement of the national contact points by providing them with more budgetary resources, and to allow for the development of Commission guidelines setting acceptable and harmonised review and approval timelines to expedite time-to-treatment in the EU under the Social Security Regulation; calls for an increase in the number of information campaigns on patients’ rights to cross-border healthcare, including those aimed at health professionals, as well as the development of a one-stop-shop for information on the EU’s cross-border access pathways; emphasises the need to reduce logistic and linguistic barriers faced by patients when accessing healthcare in another EU Member State; stresses the need to provide patients with clear
information on prior authorisation requirements that apply to certain Member States; emphasises the need to facilitate the process through a holistic revision of the cross-border healthcare frameworks, giving equal weight to the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive and the Social Security Regulation, for patients who, in view of unmet needs and potential benefits, travel abroad for clinical trials and may face issues such as a lack of clarity on follow-up protocols after their return home and on coverage of costs related to their clinical trial participation by national insurance agencies; emphasises the need for clarification regarding access to cross-border clinical trials, as this is not clear in the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive; underlines that all costs related to a treatment should be financed before it begins to avoid the exclusion of low-income patients; calls on the Commission to consider, in the context of the next revision of the existing frameworks, the setting up of a single set of authorisation and reimbursement rules for the access to cross-border healthcare, including a right to a second opinion; calls on the Commission and the Member States to work together to conduct regular evaluations of the Commission’s eHealth strategy from 2018 to ensure interconnected electronic health records, better interoperability, and improved data quality, privacy and security for cancer patients at regional, national and EU level, while ensuring strict adherence to patient health data privacy and security rules; notes the potential of the Cancer Inequalities Registry as a means of reporting and measuring improvement in these areas;

Amendment 18  
Giorgos Georgiou  
on behalf of The Left Group

Report  
Véronique Trillet-Lenoir  
Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer  
(2020/2267(INI))

Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 78

78. Calls on the Commission to strengthen the EU medicines market in order to improve equal access to treatment, including innovations and personalised medicine, reduce medicine shortages, overcome the problem of high prices for innovative technologies and treatments, encourage the use of generic and biosimilar medicines and improve cancer treatments for adults and children; calls on the Commission and the national competition authorities to assess the EU medicines market, focusing on acquisitions of SMEs by large pharmaceutical companies that undermine fair competition; encourages a multi-stakeholder dialogue on access to medicines and innovations based on models such as ACCELERATE\(^{67}\) in the paediatric cancer sector and involving all relevant actors including academics, industry, health professionals and patient representatives;

\(^{67}\) https://www.accelerate-platform.org/

78. Calls on the Commission to evaluate and shape the EU medicines market in order to improve and guarantee equal access to treatment, including innovations, personalised medicine, surgery and radiotherapy, reduce medicine shortages, overcome the problem of high prices for innovative technologies and treatments, encourage the use of generic and biosimilar medicines and improve cancer treatments for adults and children, thereby ensuring health as a human right and a public good for all; calls on the Commission and the national competition authorities to assess the EU medicines market, focusing on acquisitions of SMEs by large pharmaceutical companies that undermine fair competition; encourages a multi-stakeholder dialogue on access to medicines and innovations based on models such as ACCELERATE\(^{67}\) in the paediatric cancer sector and involving all relevant actors including academics, industry, health professionals and patient representatives;

\(^{67}\) https://www.accelerate-platform.org/

Or. en
Amendment 19
Giorgos Georgiou
on behalf of The Left Group

Report
Véronique Trillet-Lenoir
Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer
(2020/2267(INI))

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 83 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

83a. Calls on the Commission to
disourage practices which extend market
exclusivity, prolong intellectual property
protection and lead to profit maximisation
through the strategic use of intellectual
property rights, such as the incremental
patenting of existing products (‘ever-
greening’ strategies), and to promote
generic competition for off-patent rare
disease drugs;

Or. en
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 101

101. Considers that the COVID-19 pandemic was a real stress test for the EU’s health systems; underlines that the main lesson learned should be the need to build an emergency strategy to allow Member States to react in a coordinated manner against any future health crises; stresses that vulnerable groups, including cancer patients, are particularly exposed during a health crisis; stresses that specific measures under this emergency strategy should be aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups, including cancer patients, who cannot wait until the end of the crisis; stresses that these specific measures should support the development, production and stockpiling of products to protect these vulnerable groups;

Amendment

101. Considers that the COVID-19 pandemic was a real stress test for the EU’s health systems; underlines that the main lesson learned should be the need to invest in the public health sector and to build an emergency strategy to allow Member States to react in a coordinated manner against any future health crises; stresses that vulnerable groups, including cancer patients, are particularly exposed during a health crisis; stresses that specific measures under this emergency strategy should be aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups, including cancer patients, who cannot wait until the end of the crisis; stresses that these specific measures should support the development, production and stockpiling of products to protect these vulnerable groups;
Amendment 21  
Giorgos Georgiou  
on behalf of The Left Group

Report  
Véronique Trillet-Lenoir  
Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer  
(2020/2267(INI))

Motion for a resolution  
Paragraph 115

Motion for a resolution

115. Encourages the Member States to take into account the frequent exhaustion of the families and relatives of cancer patients and to provide them with psychological and socioeconomic assistance, especially to the most vulnerable, and rest periods in the workplace, throughout the course of the disease, as well as with bereavement support; encourages, furthermore, the development of integrated, adequate and accessible support schemes for cancer patients and their families, that take health, community and social services into account;

Amendment

115. Encourages the Member States to take into account the frequent exhaustion of the families and relatives of cancer patients and to provide them with psychological and socioeconomic assistance, especially to the most vulnerable, along with stronger employee protection, considering, among other options, rest periods in the workplace, an increase in the number of days of justified and paid absences to support family members, and leave and care allowances for direct relatives with 100% remuneration, throughout the course of the disease, as well as with bereavement support; encourages, furthermore, the development of integrated, adequate and accessible support schemes for cancer patients and their families, that take health, community and social services into account;

Or. en